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Letter dated 13 April 2012 from the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to forward to you the enclosed statement made by the Government of the Republic of Korea as a response to the launch of a de facto long-range missile by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on 13 April 2012 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would bring the present letter and its annex to the attention of the members of the Security Council and have it circulated as a document of the Council.

(*Signed*) **KIM** Sook
Ambassador

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Annex to the letter dated 13 April 2012 from the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Statement by the Government of the Republic of Korea on North Korea's missile launch

- North Korea launched a de facto long-range missile, which the North calls an "application satellite", at 0739 on 13 April 2012 at a launching site located in Cholsan-gun, North Pyongan province, and it has been confirmed that the launch failed.
- The launch by North Korea is a clear violation of Security Council resolution 1874 (2009), which prohibits any launch using ballistic missile technology, and a provocative act that threatens peace and security on the Korean Peninsula and in North-East Asia.
- The Government of the Republic of Korea strongly condemns that the new North Korean leadership pushed forward with the launch, disregarding the international community's unified call for withdrawal of the launch. North Korea must be held duly accountable for its actions.
- It is very regrettable that North Korea is spending enormous resources on developing nuclear and missile capabilities while ignoring the urgent welfare issue of the North Korean people such as chronic food shortages.
- The Government of the Republic of Korea is considering comprehensive measures to respond effectively against North Korea's nuclear and missile threats including any additional provocation, and will take countermeasures against the launch in close coordination with related countries and the international community.